



REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The applicants' attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and remarks.

Claims 1-20 are under consideration. Claim 21 has been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 12 are independent. Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1, while claims 13-20 depend from claim 12.

Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Baba et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,321,289 in view of Kinzer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,194,741.

Kinzer et al. is assigned to the assignee of the present application, namely, International Rectifier Corporation. Kinzer et al. and the present application were owned by the same assignee, namely, International Rectifier Corporation at the time the present application was filed.

Moreover, Kinzer et al. was issued on February 27, 2001, whereas, the present application was filed on February 24, 2000. Therefore, Kinzer et al. is a prior art reference, if at all, only under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Section 103(c) of title 35 provides: "Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." 35 U.S.C. 103(c) (Amended 1999). Section 103(c) is applicable to all applications filed after November 29, 1999. See 1233 Official Gazette 55 (Apr. 11, 2000). This application was filed after November 29, 1999. Kinzer et al., therefore, cannot be used in combination with another reference to support a rejection of the claims in this application under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Rejection of claims 1 and 12 should be withdrawn. Reconsideration is requested.

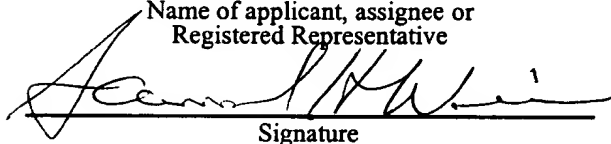
Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1, and claims 13-20 depend from claim 12. The rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn. Reconsideration is requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 14, 2001:

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Signature

December 14, 2001

Date of Signature

SHW/KS:gl

Respectfully submitted,



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